Effect of National Agricultural Policy

†1563. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the implementation and results of the National Agricultural Policy announced in the year 2000 have not proved effective;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the average annual growth rate was only 1.6 per cent. in the Tenth Five Year Plan period as per the assessment of Central Statistical Organisation;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government wants to rejuvenate agriculture in the Eleventh Five Year Plan Period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The National Agriculture Policy (NAP), 2000 aimed at a growth rate in excess of 4 per cent annum in the agriculture sector. However, due to successive natural calamities during the Tenth Plan Period. The average annual growth rate during the Tenth Plan was 2.5%.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A number of steps have been taken to rejuvenate the agriculture sector during the Eleventh five Yea. Plan Period to achieve an annual growth rate of about 4 per cent. These steps include reorientation of agriculture policy and approval of National Policy for Farmers, 2007, launching of two new schemes, namely, National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to improve production and productivity of foodgrains and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the states so as to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sector and to provide flexibility and autonomy to states in the process of planning and executing agriculture and allied sector schemes and to maximize the returns to the farmers in agriculture and allied sector. Besides, a number of initiatives, Plan Schemes and Programmes including the initiatives/programmes announced in the Budget 2008-09 have been taken/initiated to address the problems faced by the farmers and for development of agriculture sector.

Constitution of Farmers Debt Relief Commission

1564. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE:
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a farmers Debt Relief Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government is also considering to write off the debts of small and marginal farmers and bring down the interest on farm loans to a simple interest; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) There is no proposal with the Government of India for constitution of a Farmers Debt Relief Commission because the Government has taken several initiatives for providing debt relief to the farmers.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Details are given in the Statement.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.